THE STATE HISTORICAL
SOCIETY OF WISCONSIN

816 STATE STREET / MADISON, WISCONSIN 53706 / JAMES MORTON SMITH, DIRECTOR

Office of Field Services

20 February 1974

Mr. Harold Weisberg
Route 8
Frederick, Maryland 21701

Dear Mr. Weisberg:

Before leaving her position here at the Society, Ms. Jane Roth discussed with me and also wrote a report of her phone conversation with you during her January trip to Washington. She regretted that she was unable to examine your materials personally, but her report provided some idea of the wealth of resources in your files which are unavailable elsewhere, and the variety of subject areas which your files include. Both her summary and additional information from David Wrone indicate that your materials would be a very valuable addition to the Society's research resources. In many cases, your files would enrich some of our present holdings, i.e. labor history and Hollywood Ten materials. In other areas, such as the assassination materials, your files would expand substantially the scope of our twentieth century resources. I am writing now to express our interest in the Weisberg Papers and to explore the feasibility of the Society becoming the repository for your collection.

Unfortunately, the Society does not have a budget to purchase manuscript materials and must rely upon donations. I understand, however, that there is some possibility of locating a buyer who would purchase the materials from you and then donate them to the Society. We would be glad to work with you and Mr. Lesar in pursuing this possibility. I am also writing to Mr. Lesar to express our willingness to do so. He had mentioned to Ms. Roth that he could probably suggest the names of several prospective buyers. I am not sure how the Society can best help in this effort, but I will be glad to have suggestions from you and Mr. Lesar.

If this prospect materializes and mutually satisfactory arrangements can be made for the Society to acquire your collection, I would also like to suggest the possibility of interviewing you on tape. I've talked about this with David Wrone and agree with him that your taped recollections would enhance the value and research potential of your materials. Ideally, it would be best to hold the interview after we became familiar with your files, but since they are quite voluminous and we have the problem of distance, I believe we might get very satisfactory results if I could have a resume of your varied career. After some basic background preparation, I could arrange to visit you on one of my trips to D.C. for one or more taping sessions. I hope that you will be receptive to this idea and I would be pleased to have your reaction.

With all good wishes,

Sincerely,

Barbara J. Kaiser

[Mrs.] Barbara J. Kaiser
Director
Division of Field Services

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cc: Mr. David R. Wrone
Mr. James H. Lesar